NUMB. CI.

The SPECTATOR.

Romulus, & Liber pater, & cum Caſtore Pollux,
Poſt ingentia facta, Deorum in templa recepti,
Dum terras hominumque colunt genus, aſpera bella
Componunt, agros aſſignant, oppida condunt;
Ploravere ſuis non reſpondere favorem
Speratum meritis:———— Hor.

Tueſday, June 26. 1711.

CENSURE, ſays a late ingenious Author, *is the Tax a Man pays to the Publick for being Eminent.* It is a Folly for an eminent Man to think of eſcaping it, and a Weakneſs to be affected with it. All the illuſtrious Perſons of Antiquity, and indeed of every Age in the World, have paſſed through this Persecution. There is no Defence againſt Reproach, but Obſcurity; it is a kind of Concomitant to Greatneſs, as Satyrs and Invectives were an eſſential Part of a *Roman* Triumph.

Men of Eminence are expoſed to Cenſure on the one hand, they are as much liable to Flattery on the other. If they receive Reproaches which are not due to them, they likewiſe receive Praiſes which they do not deſerve. In a word, the Man in a high Poſt is never regarded with an indifferent Eye, but always conſidered as a Friend or an Enemy. For this Reaſon Perſons in great Stations have ſeldom their true Characters drawn, till ſeveral Years after their Deaths. Their perſonal Friendſhips and Enmities muſt ceaſe, and the Parties they were engaged in be at an end, before their Faults or their Virtues can have Juſtice done them. When Writers have the leaſt Opportunity of knowing the Truth, they are in the beſt Diſpoſition to tell it.

It is therefore the Privilege of Poſterity to adjuſt the Characters of Illuſtrious Perſons, and to ſet matters right between thoſe Antagoniſts who by their Rivalry for Greatneſs divided a whole Age into Factions. We can now allow *Cæſar* to be a great Man, without derogating from *Pompey*; and celebrate the Virtues of *Cato*, without detracting from thoſe of *Cæſar*. Every one that has been long dead has a due Proportion of Praiſe allotted him, in which whilſt he lived his Friends were too profuſe and his Enemies too ſparing.

According to Sir *Iſaack Newton*'s Calculations, the laſt Comet that made its Appearance in 1680, imbibed ſo much Heat by its Approaches to the Sun, that it would have been two thouſand times hotter than red hot Iron, had it been a Globe of that Metal; and that ſuppoſing it as big as the Earth, and at the ſame Diſtance from the Sun, it woud be fifty thouſand Years in cooling, before it recover'd its natural Temper. In the like manner, if an *Engliſh* Man conſiders the great Ferment into which our Political World is thrown at preſent, and how intenſely it is heated in all its parts, he cannot ſuppoſe that it will cool again in leſs than three hundred Years. In ſuch a Tract of Time it is poſſible that the Heats of the preſent Age may be extinguiſhed, and our ſeveral Claſſes of great Men repreſented under their proper Characters. Some eminent Hiſtorian may then probably ariſe that will not write *recentibus odiis*, as *Tacitus* expreſſes it,) with the Paſſions and Prejudices of a Contemporary Author, but make an impartial Diſtribution of Fame among the Great Men of the preſent Age.

I cannot forbear entertaining my ſelf very often with the Idea of ſuch an imaginary Hiſtorian deſcribing the Reign of ANNE the Firſt, and introducing it with a Preface to his Reader, that he is now entring upon the moſt ſhining Part of the *Engliſh* Story. The great Rivals in Fame will be then diſtinguiſhed according to their reſpective Merits, and ſhine in their proper Points of Light. Such a one (ſays the Hiſtorian) though variouſly repreſented by the Writers of his own Age, appears to have been a Man of more than ordinary Abilities, great Application and uncommon Integrity: Nor was ſuch an one (tho' of an oppoſite Party and Intereſt) inferior to him in any of the[i]r Reſpects. The ſeveral Antagoniſts who now endeavour to depreciate one another, and are celebrated or traduced by different Parties, will then have the ſame Body of Admirers, and appear Illuſtrious in the Opinion of the whole *Britiſh* Nation. The Deſerving Man, who can now recommend himſelf to the Eſteem of but half his Countrymen, will then receive the Approbations and Applauſes of a whole Age.

Among the ſeveral Perſons that flouriſh in this Glorious Reign, there is no Queſtion but ſuch a future

future Historian as the Person of whom I am speaking, will make mention of the Men of Genius and Learning, who have now any Figure in the *Britiſh* Nation. For my own part, I often flatter my ſelf with the honourable Mention which will then be made of me, and have drawn up a Paragraph in my own Imagination that I fancy will not be altogether unlike what will be found in ſome Page or other of this Imaginary Hiſtorian.

It was under this Reign, ſays he, that the SPECTATOR Publiſhed thoſe little Diurnal Eſſays which are ſtill extant. We know very little of the Name or Perſon of this Author, except only that he was a Man of a very ſhort Face, extreamly addicted to Silence, and ſo great a Lover of Knowledge that he made a Voyage to *Grand Cairo* for no other Reaſon but to take the Meaſure of a Pyramid. His chief Friend was one Sir ROGER DE COVERLY, a whimſical Country Knight, and a *Templar* whoſe Name he has not tranſmitted to us. He lived as a Lodger at a Houſe of a Widow-Woman, and was a great Humouriſt in all the parts of his Life. This is all we can affirm with any Certainty of his Perſon and Character. As for his Speculations, notwithſtanding the ſeveral obſolete Words and obſcure Phraſes of the Age in which he lived, we ſtill underſtand enough of them to ſee the Diverſions and Characters of the *Engliſh* Nation in his time: Not but that we are to make Allowance for the Mirth and Humour of the Author, who has doubtleſs ſtrained many Repreſentations of things beyond the Truth. For if we interpret his Words in their littera. Meaning, we muſt ſuppoſe that Women of the Firſt Quality uſed to paſs away whole Mornings at a Puppet-Show: That they atteſted their Principles by their *Patches*: That an Audience would ſit out a whole Evening to hear a Dramatical Performance written in a Language which they did not underſtand: That Chairs and Flower-Pots were introduced as Actors upon the *Britiſh* Stage: That a Promiſcuous Aſſembly of Men and Women were allowed to meet at Midnight in Maſques within the Verge of the Court, with many Improbabilities of the like Nature. We muſt therefore, in theſe and the like Caſes, ſuppoſe that theſe remote Hints and Alluſions aimed at ſome certain Follies which were then in Vogue, and which at preſent we have not any Notion of. We may gueſs by ſeveral Paſſages in the *Speculations*, that there were Writers which endeavoured to detract from the Works of this Author, but as nothing of this nature is come down to us, we cannot gueſs at any Objections that could be made to his Paper. If we conſider his Style with that Indulgence which we muſt ſhew to old *Engliſh* Writers, or if we look into the Variety of his Subjects, with thoſe ſeveral Critical Diſſertations, Moral Reflections, * *

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The following part of the Paragraph is ſo much to my Advantage, and beyond any thing I can pretend to, that I hope my Reader will excuſe me for not inſerting it.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of May, are to be ſold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-Houſe, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in Exchange Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-lane, where alſo may be had thoſe for the Months of March and April.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Not Acted theſe Six Years.

By Her Majeſty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, This preſent Tueſday, being the 26th day of June, will be Reviv'd a Comedy, call'd, The Governour of Barcelona: or, the Spaniſh Wives. The Part of the Governor to be perform'd by Mr. Johnſon, Count Camillus by Mr. Mills, Col. Peregrine by Mr. Booth, Marquis Moncada by Mr. Norris, Fryar Andrew by Mr. Bullock, Hide-with by Mr. Pack; Tit-up by Mrs. Bradſhaw, Elenora by Mrs. Knight, Orada by Mrs. Powel. To which will be added, a ſhort Farce of one Act only, call'd the Stage-Coach. The part of Nicodemus Somebody to be perform'd by Mr. Pack. N. B. The Company will continue Acting every Tueſday and Friday, during this Summer Seaſon.

This Play is ſold by Jacob Tonſon at Shakeſpear's Head over-against Catherine-ſtreet in the Strand.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

☞ An ESSAY on CRITICISM

Printed for W. Lewis in Ruſſel ſtreet Covent-Garden; and Sold by W. Taylor, at the Ship in Pater Noſter-Row; T. Osborn, in Gray's-Inn near the Walks; J. Graves, in St. James's-ſtreet; and J. Macpherſon, near Stationers-Hall. Price 1 s.

Whereas the Magiſtrate of Spa, near Liege, having received Information, that ſeveral private Perſons have ſent into England and other Countries great Quantities of Foreign Mineral Waters under the Denomination of Spa Waters, which have neither its Vertue or Qualities; and thinking himſelf obliged to undeceive all Perſons concerned, and to inform the Publick in general, that it may be eaſily proved the greateſt part of thoſe Mineral Waters which this Year have been ſent into Foreign Countries are not truly ſuch, but taken from other Places (except thoſe ſent and diſpoſed of by Mr. Seleſſin and Mr. Hubert Grandchamps, Merchants of Liege:) Therefore, to prevent the like Abuſe for the future, all Perſons are deſired to take Notice, that whatever Bottles or Hampers ſhall be ſent from their Correſpondents, without an Authentick Copy of the Declaration made on the 15th of May, 1711, by the College of Phyſicians at Liege, and without the ordinary Seal, and a Certificate ſigned by the Greffier of Spa, muſt be look'd upon as Waters Counterfeit, and taken from other Places, and not approved by the ſaid College of Phyſicians at Liege.

To be diſpoſed of a moſt Excellent Harpſicord, made by the famous Sig. Gieronimo Senti, at Peſare in Italy; having two Extraordinary fine Keys of Ivory, ſeveral Stops and Alterations: beſides the two Principals, and one Octave, or the Spinet, which may be plaid ſeparately, or together, imitating exactly the Theorbo, and moſt Curiouſly the Archi-Lute, worth any Body's hearing; is now in a manner Preſerv'd, as if made this Day. To be ſeen and tryed every Day, in St. James's Street over-againſt the Pump, next to the Swan, at the Green Door.

A good Houſe with a very good Garden in Dean-ſtreet Soho to be Lett now or at Michaelmas, with a Coach-Houſe and Stables, or without. Enquire at Robinſon's Coffee-Houſe near St. Ann's Church.

To be Sold, at a lower Rate than ordinary, at the Queen's Head, joining to the Church Gate in Bedford ſtreet, Covent-Garden, all Sorts of Druggets, Hair and Worſted Camlets, Sagathies, Duroys, Shagreens, Shallons, Durants, Padua Sarges, Shags, Serges de Nifmes, Calamancoes, and all other Goods fit for Mens Apparel. The Perſons who now keep the Shop deſigning to leave off the Trade, and the Houſe and Shop to be at Lett Michaelmas next.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in; as alſo by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.